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Premier's ban on ABC news

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HON. DON DUNSTAN, Q.C., M.P.

19.3.70.

In my experience of the A.B.C., if one explains the reason for one's inability to appear on a programme then this in itself is sufficient. But there have been to my knowledge numbers of occasions when Ministers have refused to appear when they have had ample warning to enable them to appear. Furthermore, they are not always required to appear live, for the A.B.C. goes out of its way to make studio time available for video taping to suit the convenience of people whom it seeks to interview.

The banning of the A.B.C. from all use of Government news in the present circumstances is extraordinarily high-handed, and, of course, deprives a number of people who have to rely on that news service of information concerning the activities of government to which they are entitled as citizens.

The situation is apparently to continue until it is possible for the Government to fit a discussion of the issue into its dinner engagements.
